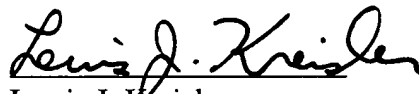


REMARKS

The Specification has been amended to refer to the prior applications (37 CFR 1.78).
Claim 19 has been amended. Support for the amendment of claim 19 may be found, *inter alia*, on page 5, lines 8-9. Entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

4-(3-(2,6-Dimethylbenzyloxy)phenyl)-4-oxobutyric acid is metabolized in mice, rats, dogs and humans to 4-(3-(2,6-Dimethylbenzyloxy)-phenyl)-4-hydroxybutanoic acid and 3-(2,6-Dimethylbenzyloxy)-phenylacetic acid. The administration of 4-(3-(2,6-Dimethylbenzyloxy)phenyl)-4-oxobutyric acid to treat certain metabolic disorders is disclosed in WO 02/100341 (Wellstat Therapeutics Corp.).

Respectfully submitted,



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